



4 ex-cops indicted on U.S. civil rights charges in Floyd death

By AMY FORLITI and MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A federal grand jury has indicted the four former Minneapolis police officers involved in George Floyd's arrest and death, accusing them of willfully violating the Black man's constitutional rights as he was restrained face-down on the pavement and gasping for air.

A three-count indictment unsealed Friday names Derek Chauvin, Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao. Chauvin was convicted last month on state charges of murder and manslaughter and is asking

for a new trial. The other three are set for state trial on Aug. 23. It's not clear what will happen in this case, but generally the state charges play out before federal charges do. The indictment sends a strong message about the Justice Department's priorities. Floyd's May 25 arrest and death, which a bystander captured on cellphone video, sparked mass protests nationwide that called for an end to racial inequalities and police mistreatment of Black people. When President Joe Biden was elected, he promised he'd work to end disparities



This combination of photos provided by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office in Minnesota on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, shows from left, Minneapolis Police Officers Derek Chauvin, J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao. Chauvin.

Associated Press

in the criminal justice system. The indictments were handed up about a week after federal prosecutors brought hate crimes charges in the death of 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia and announced two sweeping probes into

policing in two states.

The Rev. Al Sharpton said the federal charges against the officers show the Justice Department "does not excuse it nor allow police to act as though as what they do is acceptable behavior in the line of duty."

"What we couldn't get them to do in the case of Eric Garner, Michael Brown in Ferguson, and countless others, we are finally seeing them do today," Sharpton said.

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4 ex-cops indicted on U.S. civil rights charges in Floyd death



In this May 25, 2020 file image from surveillance video, Minneapolis police Officers from left, Tou Thao, Derek Chauvin, J. Alexander Kueng and Thomas Lane are seen attempting to take George Floyd into custody in Minneapolis, Minn.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

Floyd, 46, died after Chauvin pinned him to the ground with a knee on his neck, even as Floyd, who was handcuffed, repeatedly said he couldn't breathe. Kueng and Lane also helped restrain Floyd — state prosecutors have said Kueng knelt on Floyd's back and Lane held down Floyd's legs. Thao held back bystanders and kept them from intervening during the 9 1/2-minute restraint.

Lane, Thao and Kueng made initial court appearances Friday via videoconference in U.S. District Court in Minneapolis, and remain free on bond. Chauvin is held in state custody as he awaits sentencing on the state charges and hasn't yet appeared in federal court.

While all four officers are charged broadly with depriving Floyd of his rights while acting under government authority, the indictment breaks down the counts. A count against Chauvin alleges he violated Floyd's right to be free from unreasonable seizure and from unreasonable force by a police officer.

Thao and Kueng are charged with violating Floyd's right to be free

from unreasonable seizure by not intervening to stop Chauvin as he knelt on Floyd's neck. It's not clear why Lane, who held down Floyd's legs, is not mentioned in that count, but evidence in the state's case shows that Lane had asked twice whether Floyd should be rolled on his side. All four officers are charged for their failure to provide Floyd with medical care.

Chauvin was also charged in a second indictment, stemming from the use of force and neck restraint of a 14-year-old boy in 2017. Chauvin's attorney, Eric Nelson, argued during his murder trial that Chauvin acted reasonably and Floyd died because of underlying health issues and drug use. He has filed a request for a new trial.

Nelson had no comment on the federal charges. Kueng's attorney also had no comment. A message left for Thao's attorney wasn't immediately returned; Lane's attorney was unable to talk when reached by The Associated Press, and messages left later were not returned.

Ben Crump and the team of attorneys for Floyd's family said the civil rights charges reinforce "the strength and wisdom" of the Constitu-

tion. "We are encouraged by these charges and eager to see continued justice in this historic case that will impact Black citizens and all Americans for generations to come," the attorneys said in a statement. To bring federal charges in deaths involving police, prosecutors must believe an officer acted under the "color of law," or government authority, and willfully deprived someone of their constitutional rights. That's a high legal standard. An accident, bad judgment or simple negligence on the officer's part isn't enough to support federal charges; prosecutors have to prove the officer knew what he was doing was wrong in that moment but did it anyway.

The indictment in Floyd's death says Chauvin kept his left knee on Floyd's neck as he was handcuffed and was not resisting. Thao and Kueng allegedly were aware Chauvin had his knee on Floyd's neck, even after Floyd became unresponsive, and "willfully failed to intervene to stop Defendant Chauvin's use of unreasonable force." All four officers are charged with willfully depriving Floyd of liberty without due process, including the right

to be free from "deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs." The other indictment, against Chauvin only, alleges he deprived the 14-year-old boy of his right to be free of unreasonable force when he held the teen by the throat, hit him in the head with a flashlight and held his knee on the boy's neck and upper back while he was prone, handcuffed and not resisting.

According to a police report from that 2017 encounter, Chauvin wrote that the teen resisted arrest and after the teen, whom he described as 6-foot-2 and about 240 pounds, was handcuffed, Chauvin "used body weight to pin" him to the floor.

The boy was bleeding from the ear and needed two stitches.

That encounter was one of several mentioned in state court filings that prosecutors said showed Chauvin had used neck or head and upper body restraints seven times before dating back to 2014, including four times state prosecutors said he went too far and held the restraints "beyond the point when such force was needed under the circumstances."

Bob Bennett, an attorney

for the teenager, said the "familiar behavior" from Chauvin showed Floyd wasn't his first victim.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, whose office is prosecuting the state charges, said the federal government is responsible for protecting the civil rights of every American and "federal prosecution for the violation of George Floyd's civil rights is entirely appropriate."

Chauvin was convicted on state charges of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Experts say he will likely face no more than 30 years in prison when he is sentenced June 25. The other officers face charges alleging they aided and abetted second-degree murder and manslaughter.

Any federal sentence would be served at the same time as a state sentence.

At the White House on Friday, press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden didn't have a direct reaction to the indictments. She added that the Floyd case was "a reminder of the need to put police reform in place through our legislative process." □

In surprise, Atlanta Mayor Bottoms won't seek a second term

By BILL BARROW and
JEFF AMY

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said Friday she has wrestled since her first year in office with whether to seek a second term, and this week she made a final decision to step aside even as she insisted she doesn't know what she'll do next.

"Leadership sometimes is about passing off the baton," Bottoms told reporters at City Hall, the morning after releasing an election-year surprise public letter and video announcing that she wouldn't run for reelection this year.

It was a stunning announcement for the 51-year-old politician who is just the second Black woman to lead Atlanta and who less than a year ago was among the women President Joe Biden considered as a possible running mate. Bottoms called it a decision rooted in her faith, and pushed back at any notion that she is afraid of a bruising campaign. She noted she's built a flush campaign account — with Biden's help — and maintains a strong standing with the electorate, even as she navigates a sometimes rocky relationship with the City Council and with her one-time ally and political benefactor, former Mayor Kasim Reed.

"There is a divine voice that lives inside each of us ... that may not make sense to anyone else.... But when you know what you know, it becomes less and less important what other people think," Bottoms said, adding that she considered the matter as early as the opening months of her administration.

Bottoms is the first Atlanta mayor since World War II not to seek a second term, and only one mayor since then has been defeated for reelection. She acknowledged that history Friday, saying "this is something that's not ordinary."

The mayor emphasized she will finish out her term, which runs through early January.



Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms speaks during a news conference, Friday, May 7, 2021, in Atlanta.

She did not rule out a future post in Biden's administration.

"We'll see. I can tell you being mayor with President Biden in the White House has made a world of difference," said Bottoms, one of Biden's earliest endorsers in a crowded Democratic primary campaign.

At the White House, press secretary Jen Psaki gave no indication a post for Bottoms is imminent, saying the mayor has indicated she'll be entering the private sector.

"She remains of course someone who the president has a fondness for," Psaki said.

Bottoms said donors to her reelection account will receive a letter offering to refund their contributions. While Bottoms said she has no plans to "anoint a successor," she said she'll "make it known at the appropriate time who I will cast my vote for."

The City Council president, Felicia Moore, has announced her candidacy. Some political observers believe Reed, who endorsed Bottoms in her 2017 bid, is angling for a return, after being dogged by a federal investigation into city contracts and finances

during his administration. Signaling a falling-out with Reed, Bottoms pledged not to interfere with her successor. "Unfortunately, that hasn't been the case, always, during my term," she said.

The mayor also lamented the federal investigation, saying it sometimes "sucked the life out of City Hall."

Bottoms' tenure has been a mix of rough-and-tumble City Hall politics and an ever-brightening national spotlight for her.

She frequently traveled and appeared on national television to campaign for Biden. He later considered her for the vice presidency, though he eventually chose Kamala Harris, now the first woman to hold the national office.

Bottoms' profile rose during the coronavirus pandemic and with attention on policing after George Floyd's killing by a white Minneapolis officer last spring.

She drew plaudits for a nationally televised news conference in which she chided protesters to "go home" while sharing her own experiences as a mother of Black sons to empathize with citizens distraught over police violence. She

pledged to review police procedures.

Yet Bottoms met criticism herself weeks later when an Atlanta police officer shot and killed Rayshard Brooks. The officer, Garrett Rolfe, was fired last June, a day after he shot the Black man in the parking lot of a fast food restaurant.

Rolfe was later charged with murder.

The Atlanta Civil Service Board on Wednesday reversed the firing, finding the city failed to grant Rolfe due process. Bottoms said Rolfe would remain on administrative leave while criminal charges against him are resolved.

The mayor didn't mention Floyd or Brooks in her announcement letter, focusing instead on having given the city's police and firefighters raises and alluding to a "social justice movement (that) took over our streets ... and we persisted."

Early in her term, Bottoms eliminated cash bail in Atlanta and ended the city jail's relationship with federal immigration enforcement agencies, joining big-city mayors around the country in criticizing then-President Donald Trump's hardline immigration poli-

cies. Her administration navigated a cyberattack on the city's computer systems early in her tenure.

She helped renegotiate the long-term redevelopment of "The Gulch," part of the city's old railroad footprint downtown. But the city did not score the biggest potential prize for the location: the second Amazon headquarters that instead is being built in northern Virginia, outside Washington, D.C.

An Atlanta native and graduate of Florida A&M University, Bottoms is the second Black woman to lead the city. She joined Shirley Franklin, who served two terms from 2002-2010. Bottoms noted her family's deep ties to the city.

"My ancestors, direct descendants of the once enslaved, traveled by horse and buggy from the cotton fields of east Georgia in search of a better life for themselves and their children in Atlanta," she wrote in her open letter Thursday. "I have carried their belief for a better tomorrow in my heart, their earnest work ethic in my being, and their hopes for generations not yet born on my mind, each day that I have been privileged to serve." □

California reports first ever yearly population decline

By ADAM BEAM

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California's population fell by more than 182,000 people in 2020, marking the first year-over-year loss ever recorded for the nation's most populous state. State officials announced Friday that California's population dipped 0.46% to just under 39.5 million people from January 2020 to January 2021.

The news comes one week after the U.S. Census Bureau announced a paltry population growth for California, resulting in the state losing a congressional seat for the first time because it grew more slowly than other states over the past decade.

But the census numbers reflect the state's population in April 2020. The new state numbers released Friday reflect the state's population as of January 2021.

The state four most populated cities — Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose and San Francisco — lost a combined 88,000 people. LA dropped the most at nearly 52,000 and has now lost about 75,000 people in the last three years to fall to an



In this Dec. 7, 2020, file photo, a person wearing a protective mask walks in front of the skyline on Bernal Heights Hill during the coronavirus pandemic in San Francisco. California's population has declined for the first time in its history.

Associated Press

overall population of just over 3.9 million.

More people left California for other states than moved here, continuing a trend for decades that has prompted criticism of the state's high taxes and progressive politics. But state officials say 2020 was an anomaly as the coronavi-

rus pandemic halted international immigration and killed 51,000 people.

California's death rate was 19% higher than the average for the past three years. In all, 51 of the state's 58 counties posted death rates above the three-year average — including 12 that had increases of 20%

or more. In Los Angeles County, the nation's most populous with more than 10 million residents, the death rate was 27% higher than average.

"If it were not for the pandemic last year, we might be having a very different conversation today," said Walter Schwarm, Califor-

nia's chief demographer.

California became a state in 1850 on the heels of a gold rush that prompted people to seek their fortune out west. The population soared following World War II with the help of a robust defense and aerospace industry. It boomed again in the 1980s and 1990s as technology companies put Silicon Valley on the map. But the growth slowed after the end of the Cold War in the 1990s when the federal government cut back on defense spending and again in the years before the Great Recession in the late 2000s.

In the years after that recession, California's economy had 10 years of consecutive growth. It appeared the state's population would surpass 40 million people, a major milestone for a state that began as an far-flung outpost on the western frontier.

But the state's growth slowed significantly in the late 2010s. While more people were leaving the state than moving there, those losses had been offset by international migration and births. □

Justice Dept. rule would aim to crack down on 'ghost guns'



This Nov. 27, 2019, file photo shows "ghost guns" on display at the headquarters of the San Francisco Police Department in San Francisco.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL BALSAMO

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department on Friday released a proposed rule that would broaden the definition of a firearm, requiring some gun-making kits to include a serial number as the Biden adminis-

tration moves forward to combat so-called "ghost guns."

It comes several weeks after President Joe Biden promised a crackdown on "ghost guns," homemade firearms that lack serial numbers used to trace

them and are often purchased without a background check.

For years, federal and local law enforcement officials have been sounding the alarm about what they say is a loophole in federal firearms law, allowing people who are generally prohibited from owning guns to obtain them by making the weapons themselves. Ghost guns have increasingly been turning up at crime scenes and being purchased from gang members and other criminals by undercover federal Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents.

The Justice Department estimates that more than 23,000 weapons without serial numbers were seized by law enforcement from 2016 to 2020 and were identified in connection with 325 homicides or attempted ho-

micides.

It's legal to build a gun in a home or a workshop, and advances in 3-D printing and milling have made it easier to do so. Ready-made kits can be purchased for a few hundred dollars online without the kind of background check required for traditional gun purchases.

But under the proposed rule, retailers would be required to run background checks before selling some of those kits that contain the parts necessary for someone to readily make a gun at home.

The rule sets forth several factors to determine whether the unfinished receivers could be easily convertible into a finished firearm, a senior Justice Department official said. If they meet that criteria, manufacturers would also

be required to include a serial number, the official said. The rule also would require serial numbers to be added to homemade, unserialized weapons that are traded in or turned into a federal firearms dealer.

The official could not discuss the matter ahead of a public announcement and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. Once the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register, the public will have 90 days to submit comments. The critical component in building an untraceable gun is what is known as the lower receiver, a part typically made of metal or polymer. An unfinished receiver — sometimes referred to as an "80% receiver" — can be legally bought online with no serial numbers or other markings on it, no license required. □

Toronto schools shutdown amid third wave of infections

By ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Schools in Canada's largest city will shut down Wednesday and move to online learning because of a third surge of coronavirus infections fueled by more-contagious virus variants.

Toronto Medical Officer of Health Dr. Eileen de Villa said in a statement stronger measures are needed to reverse the surge.

"The spread of COVID-19 has never been greater in Toronto, with variants of concern increasing both the risk of transmission and the risk of serious illness or death," de Villa said in a statement. Ontario has seen seeing more than 3,000 new infections a day in recent days and record intensive care numbers.

The move follows a similar move by the neighboring Peel Region. The closures will be reevaluated later this month. Toronto has one of the largest school districts in North America.

Local health officials made the decision after the province declined to act. Ontario Premier Doug Ford, who said earlier that schools are safe, has been



Manda Zand, right, hugs her grandmother Farang Ahmadkorour, 92, after she received her COVID-19 vaccine at the Seneca College mass vaccination site during the coronavirus pandemic in Toronto, Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

Associated Press

criticized by health officials for not doing more to get infections under control.

Ford had refused to shut down shopping malls, but then admonished people for using them. "Around the world, countries are facing a very serious third wave of this pandemic. And right now, so is Canada. This isn't the news any of us want-

ed, but hospitalizations are surging. ICU beds are filling up," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday.

He said he planned to talk with Ford "about what the spike in cases means for hospitals, and the importance of vaccinating as many people as possible, as quickly as possible."

Vaccinations have ramped

up in Canada in recent weeks and all adults who want a vaccine are expected to get at least one dose by July.

York region, just north of Toronto, is also a hot spot of new infections, but has decided to keep schools open.

"At the direction of Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region's

Medical Officer of Health, York Region Public Health continues to follow the provincial Reopening Framework prioritizing schools remain open throughout all levels, even during the province-wide "emergency brake shutdown," a York region spokeswoman said in an email.

Laura Barr, a 40-year-old teacher in Toronto, said she's relieved her district has ended in-class learning. Teachers at her school were teaching students in-person and online simultaneously.

"I was no longer feeling safe," she said. "It was very stressful trying to maintain distancing and other safety protocols in person while also interacting with students learning from home. I'm very relieved that schools have shut down; now I can focus on teaching without worrying that my health is being put in jeopardy."

She added she wished Ford had taken proper actions sooner to avoid a third wave. "It will be so hard for many families to make the necessary arrangements to adapt to remote learning with no notice," she said. □

Osaka issues virus spike warning, wants torch relay rerouted

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Osaka prefecture issued a special warning Wednesday that a rapid surge in coronavirus cases is placing medical systems in the region at the verge of collapse and requested the cancellation of the Olympic torch relay along all public roads in the prefecture.

Gov. Hirofumi Yoshimura declared a "medical emergency" in the western Japanese prefecture, where daily cases have reached new highs, and asked hospitals to urgently prepare additional beds.

Yoshimura, who previously asked for a cancellation of the torch relay only in Osaka city, said all segments

on public roads should be canceled. The Olympic organizing committee said later Wednesday that it will hold the Osaka leg of the Olympic torch run, scheduled for April 13-14, at the

1970 Osaka Expo commemorative park.

The Tokyo Olympics are to start in just over three months with Japan's vaccination drive still in its initial stages. Experts say more

contagious new variants of the virus are becoming more common and are urging health officials to respond quickly to prevent an explosive increase with only a fraction of the people inoculated.

"Medical systems are on the verge of collapse," Yoshimura said at a news conference. He attributed the rapid spike in infections to a new variant of the virus. "Obviously it spreads more rapidly and it is more contagious," he said. About 70% of hospital beds available in Osaka are now occupied, the threshold for declaring a "medical emergency," officials said.

The measures come two days after Yoshimura issued a set of special vi-

rus control measures for Osaka city alone following Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's decision to place the prefectures of Osaka, Hyogo and Miyagi under a semi-emergency.

Osaka's neighboring prefecture of Hyogo is also facing an upsurge and has imposed special virus measures in four cities beginning Monday, along with Sendai, a city in the northern prefecture of Miyagi. Infections also have surged elsewhere in the western region, which experts say may require additional virus protection measures and stay-home requests, possibly leading to the cancellation of more torch events, a further setback for the Olympics. □



Osaka Gov. Hirofumi Yoshimura speaks next to a screen reading "medical emergency declaration" in Osaka, western Japan, Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

Associated Press

Myanmar's Karen insurgents burn another government outpost

BANGKOK (AP) — Guerilla soldiers from Myanmar's Karen ethnic minority burned down a government military outpost on Friday after capturing it without a fight when its garrison fled, a senior Karen officer said.

The position is approximately 15 kilometers (nine miles) from a larger camp that the Karen National Liberation Army stormed and burned 10 days earlier. The KNLA is the armed wing of the Karen National Union, the main political organization representing the Karen minority, whose homeland is in eastern Myanmar.

The Karen and the Kachin in northern Myanmar are the two major ethnic armed organizations that have allied themselves with the movement against the junta that took power in Myanmar after the army ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February.

The role of the ethnic fighting groups has become more important as the number of people joining street protests in Myanmar's cities and towns has declined, in large part due to deadly violence increasingly used by security forces



In this photo provided by Karen National Liberation Army, a Karen National Liberation Army soldier holds a mortar shell found at a Myanmar military outpost Friday, May 7, 2021, in Mutraw district, Karen State, Myanmar.

Associated Press

to suppress them. Hundreds of demonstrators and bystanders have died.

There is now daily fighting between the government and the military forces of the Karen and the Kachin. A shadow National Unity Government formed by the junta's foes announced this week the formation of

a "People's Defense Force" intended to serve as a precursor to a "Federal Union Army" of democratic forces including ethnic minorities, underlining the major role they may play.

Video provided to The Associated Press showed KNLA soldiers on Friday inside the U Thu Hta base — a group

of wooden buildings and trenches cut into a forest — inspecting mortar shells left behind by the government military. The camp is close to the Salween River, which marks the border with Thailand.

"Yesterday our troops fired a few shots and today when we approached

there was no one there, so we just entered," KNLA Maj. Gen. Ner Dah Mya said by phone Friday.

Fighting between the guerillas and the Myanmar army has been increasing since last year but escalated after the military's seizure of power.

The Karen National Union has been fighting for greater autonomy for the region for decades. It has denounced the February coup and given shelter to opposition supporters evading arrest. As well as confronting the army on the battlefield, the KNLA has reportedly been training hundreds of young activists from the cities in the rudiments of guerrilla warfare. The attack raised the likelihood of retaliatory air strikes by the Myanmar military and a surge of refugees trying to flee into Thailand. Myanmar military jets have launched around 30 attacks since the end of March, targeting Karen villages as well as KNLA positions, according to aid groups active in the area. Several thousand people crossed the Salween River into Thailand in April but Thai authorities insisted they go back to Myanmar. □

U.S. citizen in Thailand charged with murdering Thai wife



In this Thursday, May 6, 2021, photo released by the Thai Provincial Police Region 5, police arrest and interrogate American citizen Jason Matthew Balzer, center, in Chiang Mai province northern Thailand before charging him for intentionally murdering his pregnant wife in Nan province.

Associated Press

By **CHALIDA EKVITHAY-AVECHNUKUL** and **GRANT PECK**
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Police in Thailand said Friday they have charged a U.S. citizen from the state of Colorado

with murdering his pregnant Thai wife.

Jason Matthew Balzer, 32, was interrogated Friday in the northern city of Nan where he had lived with Pitchaporn Kidchob, said police Lt. Col. Somkiat Ruam-ngern. The murder charge carries a maximum penalty of death.

Balzer was arrested Thursday in the northern city of Chiang Mai and confessed to killing his 32-year-old wife, said Maj. Gen. Weerachon Boontawee, chief of Provincial Police Region 5's Detective Department. It was unclear if Balzer had a lawyer representing him. Balzer's last known residence in the U.S. was in Longmont, Colorado.

According to Weerachon, Balzer said Pitchaporn had "given him hope," so he

married her and bought her a house in Nan, her home province. Balzer said he became enraged when she tried to chase him out, so he stabbed her with a knife, the police officer said.

He said Balzer put her body in a rubbish bin that he sealed and buried in the woods about 5 kilometers (3 miles) from their home. Balzer then drove on a motorbike to Chiang Mai, where he was arrested, Weerachon said.

Police had been alerted to a possible crime when Pitchaporn's mother, who was unable to reach her daughter by phone, went to the couple's house and found bloodstains.

Balzer, a programmer, met Pitchaporn in Thailand in 2017 and they were mar-

ried in the U.S., after which Balzer quit his job, sold all his property and moved to Nan, the newspaper Thai Rath reported, citing Provincial Police Region 5 commander Prachuab Wongsuk.

Balzer said he did not know his wife was three months' pregnant, Prachuab said.

According to media reports from Colorado, Balzer has been in previous legal trouble. The Boulder Daily Camera reported that Balzer in December 2019 pleaded guilty to one count of third-degree assault in Boulder District Court and was sentenced to two years of probation. It said he had originally been charged with attempted murder and six related charges, but his victim would not testify in court. □

Israeli troops kill 2 Palestinian attackers as tensions rise

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinians and wounded a third after the men opened fire on a base in the occupied West Bank on Friday, the latest in a series of violent confrontations amid soaring tensions in Jerusalem.

Dozens of Palestinians in an east Jerusalem neighborhood are at risk of being evicted following a long legal battle with Israeli settlers, and Palestinian protesters have clashed with Israeli police in the city on a nightly basis since the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The unrest has drawn attention from across the region, with neighboring Jordan warning Israel against further "provocative" steps, and Iran seizing on the sensitivities around Jerusalem and encouraging the vio-

lence.

Israeli police said three attackers fired on the base near the northern West Bank town of Jenin. The Border Police and an Israeli soldier returned fire, killing two of the men and wounding the third, who was evacuated to a hospital.

Some 70,000 worshippers attended the final Friday prayers of Ramadan at Al-Aqsa, the Islamic endowment that oversees the site said. Thousands protested afterwards, waving the green flags of the Islamic militant group Hamas and chanting pro-Hamas slogans before dispersing peacefully.

Israelis and Palestinians are bracing for more violence in the coming days.

Sunday night is "Laylat al-Qadr" or the "Night of Destiny," the most sacred in the Muslim holy month of

Ramadan. Worshippers will gather for intense night-time prayers at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City, a flash-point site sacred to both Muslims and Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount.

Sunday night is also the start of Jerusalem Day, a national holiday in which Israel celebrates its annexation of east Jerusalem and religious nationalists hold parades and other celebrations in the city. On Monday, an Israeli court is expected to issue a verdict on the evictions.

Israel's archenemy Iran was meanwhile marking its own Quds, or Jerusalem, Day on Friday. The national holiday typically features anti-Israel protests and fiery speeches by Iranian leaders predicting Israel's demise.

"The downward and declin-



Demonstrators hold Palestinian flags during the annual Al-Quds, or Jerusalem, Day rally in Tehran, Iran, Friday, May 7, 2021.

Associated Press

ing movement of the Zionist regime has begun and will not stop," Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a televised address. He called for continuing armed "resistance" in the Palestinian territories and urged Muslim nations support it. This year, Ramadan

has coincided with an uptick in Israeli-Palestinian violence focused on Jerusalem, where Palestinian protesters have repeatedly clashed with Israeli police over restrictions on outdoor gatherings at the Damascus Gate leading into the Old City. □

Brazil's Amazon deforestation surged in April after pledges

By DAVID BILLER
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Preliminary data released Friday signaled deforestation of Brazil's Amazon in April was the highest for that month in at least five years, a report that comes two weeks after Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro said his government would dedicate more energy and resources toward curbing deforestation.

Deforestation rose 43% over the same month in 2020, to 581 square kilometers (224 square miles), according to the government's Deter monitoring system, which provides daily deforestation alerts based on satellite images.

At the U.S.-led climate summit on April 22, Bolsonaro shifted his tone on Amazon preservation and exhibited willingness to step up commitment, even though many critics remain doubtful of his credibility. He also said Brazil requires outside funds to curb deforestation of the world's largest tropical rainforest.

His environment minister this year began talks with officials from the admin-

istration of U.S. President Joe Biden, who has directly called on Brazil to take stronger action. Officials and activists are watching closely for signs whether Bolsonaro's shift in tone amounts to more than empty promises.

Bolsonaro has previously exalted the need to tap the Amazon's resources, cast aspersions on environmental activists who defend the rainforest and snarled at European leaders who decried its destruction. In the 12 months through mid-2020, deforestation reached its worst level in more than a decade.

Alerts since last July had indicated that Amazon deforestation was retreating from its peak, but April data marks continuation of an upward trend after a five-year high in March. The data series of Brazil's national institute for space research starts in 2015-2016. "This shows that there is no action of control of the government," The Climate Observatory, a network of environmental non-profits, said in a statement.

It also highlighted that cloud cover in April 2021

was the greatest for that month on record, which could conceal satellite views of even more deforestation.

Days before the climate summit, a group of 15 U.S. senators penned a letter to Biden complaining of Bolsonaro's environmental track

record and urging the U.S. to condition any support for Amazon preservation on significant progress reducing deforestation. □



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Who was L.G. Smith?

ORANJESTAD — Who is that man whose statue is in Oranjestad and after whom the city's boulevard is named after? This must have been a man of great merit for our island.

Lloyd Gaston Smith was born in Illinois in 1891. In

the early 1920s he graduated as a technical draftsman. He went to work for the American Standard Oil Company, was quickly promoted and then was commissioned to design a refinery for Aruba. A subsidiary of Standard Oil, the Lago Oil and Transport Compa-



ny, had established itself in Aruba with a crude oil transfer point from Lago de Maracaibo, the large shallow lake near that city, where there was an enormous supply of oil. The pumped-up oil was transported in flat-bottomed tankers to the nearest location with a suitable port, and that is why San Nicolas in Aruba was developed. This was realized by the first General Manager, Captain Rodger (Mr. Lago). As soon as the port and the transshipment site were in operation, they also wanted to add a refinery. As early as 1925, the Dutch government had obtained a 99-year concession to use 2,000 hectares south-east of San Nicolas for the establishment of a refinery and a residential area. Remarkably, this decision was taken at the start of the Great Depression, the severe economic crisis that broke out in 1929. The

oil industry was then considered a safe investment. Remarkably, this decision was taken at the start of the Great Depression, the severe economic crisis that broke out in 1929. The oil industry was then considered a safe investment. Construction of the refinery began in 1928 and was completed in 1933. In addition to the refinery, a residential area for American staffers, known as Lago Colony, was also built. It consisted of about 650 bungalows, a primary and a secondary school, a Protestant church, a hospital, sports fields and a club building and open-air cinema. Two bays with beaches (Rodgers Beach and the

Baby Lagoon) made the Colony a luxurious residential area, a kind of American enclave for the higher Lago staff. Everything had previously been imported, in the first years even drinking water. Lloyd Smith was appointed General Manager of the Lago in 1933. The family with 6 children came to Aruba by oil tanker and took up residence in one of the bungalows. The construction of a large management house, which was given the name La Casa Grande, Spanish for The Big House, was immediately started, with a view over the Baby Lagoon. The two-storey house was also to serve as accommodation for company staff who came to visit the refinery. The Smith family lived there until 1946. It was taken down shortly afterwards.

Continued on Page 9



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By Uthello Chiles

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Who was L.G. Smith?

Continued from Page 8

The personnel needed was to run the refinery could not be found on Aruba, there was a veritable invasion of workers from other Cara and CARIBBEAN islands, especially the Windward, English-speaking islands. However, both these workers and those from Aruba itself had hardly received any training and had to be completely retrained for the work at the refinery. Smith, himself the son of a school principal, began an extensive training program that was mandatory for all workers. For example, many Arubans have been trained to become skilled foremen, technicians, managers, office and hospital staff,

and so on. The living standard of the Aruban increased enormously as a result.

Lloyd G. Smith's service to Lago and to Aruba in general is invaluable: he built an electricity plant, schools, the church and the hospital in the Colony. He also worked with the Lieutenant Governor (Isaac Wagemaker) in the 1930s and during the war to find solutions for the challenges of the time. The whole island benefited. As early as 1938, Princess Juliana came to Aruba and appointed Smith Knight in the Order of Oranje Nassau.

The outbreak of the Second World War, even though it happened so far away, had a significant impact on life in Aruba. The Lago refinery,

at the time the largest and most modern in the world, produced a substantial portion of the fuel the Allies needed, which was one reason for the island to be wary of a hostile attack. Initially there was a Scottish regiment, then American artillery. That hostile attack came anyway, in the night of 15 to 16 February 1942. A German U-boat made an otherwise unsuccessful attempt to bombard the refinery but hit several tankers with torpedoes that went up in flames with a large number of victims. Lloyd G. Smith was very outraged by this attack on his refinery, which, with all the lights on, stood by like a Christmas tree. He ran out of the house cursing in the middle of the night and hurried to the pier where he smashed the lamps with stones. This quick action earned him the nickname The Flash. The damage to the refinery was not too bad, but it was the beginning of a fearful period for Aruba where embezzlement was mandatory from that day on. Smith kept its courage and guided refinery and personnel through these exciting years. In 1945, Princess Juliana came to Aruba again, this time to promote him to Commander in the Order of Oranje Nassau, an honorary title that is very rarely awarded to a non-Dutchman. The damage to the refinery was not too bad, but it was the beginning of a fearful period for Aruba where embezzlement was mandatory from that day on. Smith kept its courage and guided refinery and personnel through these exciting years. In 1945, Princess Juliana came to Aruba again, this time to promote him to Commander in the Order of Oranje Nassau, an honorary title that is very rarely awarded to a non-Dutchman. The damage to the refinery was not too bad, but it was the beginning of a fearful period for Aruba where embezzlement was mandatory from that

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In 1946, Smith was promoted to vice president of the parent company, relocating to New York; his departure from Aruba was regretted by everyone. In 1958, shortly after his retirement, Lloyd G. Smith died of a heart attack. In accordance with his wish, he was cremated and his ashes were scattered in the sea on the shipping route between San Nicolas and Lake Maracaibo. In his memory, a statue, well, a bust, was placed at the roundabout in front of the Cas di Cultura in 1960 and the boulevard from that point to Arashi was named L.G. Smith Boulevard. All this in recognition of his contribution to the success of the Lake, to the growth of the Aruban economy and unfolding of the island.

Source: Historia di Aruba

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Dog Control Unit active

ORANJESTAD - On Monday, May 3, 2021, Bureau City Inspector started the training in combination with other government services that will eventually strengthen the Dog Control Unit.

The training is highly necessary for those who become part of this unit. They are trained to handle dogs without being bitten, and

learn how to catch dogs efficiently which can vary from dog to dog.

On Monday, the entire team experienced the introduction given by veterinarian Irene Croes, followed by a lecture by dog trainer Tito Lacle. After the lecture, Dean Nicholson, police dog handler, took over the training and con-

tinued with the training, both theoretical and practical training focused on what they will encounter in the field.

On Wednesday, the Dog Control unit took their mobile unit into the street for training and used an incoming police report reporting a serious case of dog abuse. The unit mobi-



lized to the indicated address and on arrival found itself in a critical situation of dog neglect. In this case, the owner signed off his ownership of the dogs and the Dog Control Unit rescued 4 dogs and took them to the Dog Control Center for professional care.

The team had the opportunity to witness the cruel reality that many foundations face on a daily basis, the neglect of pets. The reality in Aruba regarding this situation is that most, if not all, animal shelter foundations have their hands full help-

ing as many pets as possible with veterinary care and neutering in the hope of finding a new home for these pets.

Hopefully the Aruba community will start helping by becoming a better pet owner, by being a better neighbor by notifying the authorities in good time of pet neglect before the neglect becomes critical and by adopting dogs instead of dogs to import. In this way, the foundations can help more dogs in painful situation given the number of dogs that need to be rescued and neutered. □



Cruise giant Norwegian threatens to skip Florida's ports

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Business Writer

Miami-based Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings is threatening to keep its ships out of Florida after the governor signed legislation banning businesses from requiring that customers show proof of vaccination against COVID-19.

The company says the law signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis is at odds with guidelines from federal health authorities that would let cruise ships sail in U.S. waters if nearly all passengers and crew members are vaccinated.

"It is a classic state-versus-federal-government issue," said Norwegian's CEO, Frank Del Rio. "Lawyers believe that federal law applies and not state law, but I'm not a lawyer. And we hope that this doesn't become a legal football or a political football."

The company owns Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

Del Rio told analysts during the company's quarterly earnings call Thursday that



In this May 4, 2020 file photo, Norwegian cruise ships are docked at Portsmouth Marine Terminal in Portsmouth, Va.

Associated Press

if the company can't operate in Florida, it can go to other states or the Caribbean "for ships that otherwise would have gone to Florida ... we certainly hope it doesn't come to that."

Del Rio said the company is still discussing the matter with DeSantis' office.

Last month, DeSantis signed an order banning businesses from requiring customers to show proof of vaccination and prohibiting state agencies from issuing so-

called vaccine passports that document COVID-19 vaccinations and test results. This week, he signed legislation that includes the provision about businesses and gives him power to overrule local measures related to the pandemic, such as mask mandates.

DeSantis said the order and the legislation were matters of preserving individual freedom and privacy. On Friday, the governor's office did not immediately

respond to the Norwegian Cruise Line CEO's comments.

Norwegian aims to have all passengers and crew vaccinated. Guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would let ships skip practice voyages and begin trips with paying customers if 98% of the crew and 95% of passengers are vaccinated and ships take other measures to limit the risk of transmitting the virus that

causes COVID-19.

Cruise lines have been barred from sailing in U.S. waters or stopping at U.S. ports since March 2020, early in the pandemic. Some are slowly resuming trips in other countries and requiring that all passengers on those cruises be vaccinated.

The companies are pushing the CDC to let them return the U.S. this summer, although none of the major companies — Norwegian, Royal Caribbean Group and Carnival Corp. — have announced any U.S. cruises.

Del Rio said the path to resuming U.S. cruises is "a bit rockier and a bit steeper" than expected, and he said a mid-summer restart "could be in jeopardy."

Norwegian said after the market closed Thursday that it lost \$1.37 billion in the first quarter after losing \$4 billion last year. The company said, however, that bookings have picked up, raising hopes for a recovery in early 2022.

Its shares rose about 2% in Friday afternoon trading. □

China trade surges as global demand recovers from pandemic

By **JOE McDONALD**

BEIJING (AP) — China's trade with the United States and the rest of the world surged by double digits in April as consumer demand recovered, but growth appeared to be slowing.

Global exports rose 32.3% over a year ago to \$263.9 billion, in line with March but down from the explosive 60.6% rise in the first two months of 2021, customs data showed Friday. Imports increased 43.1% to \$221.1 billion, accelerating from March's 38.1% expansion.

China's trade gains look especially dramatic due to comparison with a year ago, when global economies shut down to fight the coronavirus. Forecasters say growth is flattening out once that distortion and seasonal fluctuations are taken into account.

Despite the jump in April's headline figures, exports

are leveling off "and the rebound in imports stalled," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report. "Demand is probably close to a cyclical peak."

The trade outlook is overshadowed by a tariff war with Washington and surveys that show April growth in export orders weakened. President Joe Biden has yet to say what he might do about reviving talks aimed at ending the trade war.

On the domestic front, economic output in the three months ending in March grew only 0.6% from the previous quarter, showing China's explosive rebound was abruptly slowing. That suggests growth in Chinese demand for iron ore, consumer goods and other imports will cool.

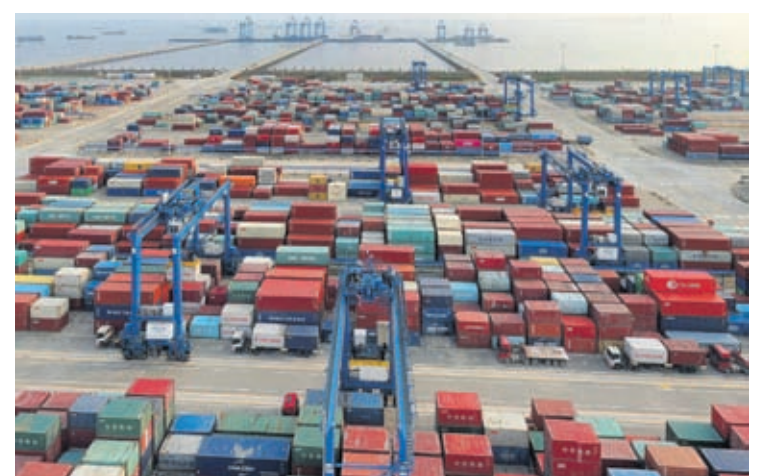
Chinese manufacturers of smartphones, cars, consumer electronics and other goods also are ham-

pered by global shortages of processor chips as industries revive following the pandemic.

April exports to the United States rose 30.8% over a year ago to \$42 billion despite tariff hikes that stayed in place after Beijing and Washington agreed to a truce in their trade war last year. Imports of American goods rose 23.5% to \$13.9 billion despite Chinese tariff hikes.

China's global trade surplus narrowed by 5% to \$42.8 billion, a sign Chinese demand is recovering faster than in the rest of the world. Its politically volatile surplus with the United States widened by 33.4% to \$28.1 billion.

Exports to the 27-nation European Union rose 23.9% over a year ago to \$39.9 billion while imports gained \$43.3% to \$26.8 billion. China's trade surplus with Europe narrowed by 3% to



In this April 8, 2021 file photo, a container port on the Yangtze River is seen in an aerial view in Nantong in eastern China's Jiangsu province.

Associated Press

\$13.1 billion.

Exporters benefited from the early reopening of China's economy and demand for masks and other medical supplies while some governments are reimposing anti-virus curbs that limit business and trade.

The latest Chinese import figures also are inflated by

the rise in global prices for iron ore and other commodities. That can make imports look bigger while the amount of goods holds steady or declines.

In the four months through April, Chinese exports jumped 44% over a year earlier to \$973.7 billion. Imports rose \$31.9 billion to \$815.8 billion. □

States push back against use of facial recognition by police

By JULIE CARR SMYTH

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

Law enforcement agencies across the U.S. have used facial recognition technology to solve homicides and bust human traffickers, but concern about its accuracy and the growing pervasiveness of video surveillance is leading some state lawmakers to hit the pause button.

At least seven states and nearly two dozen cities have limited government use of the technology amid fears over civil rights violations, racial bias and invasion of privacy. Debate over additional bans, limits and reporting requirements has been underway in about 20 state capitals this legislative session, according to data compiled by the Electronic Privacy Information Center.

Lawmakers say they want to give themselves time to evaluate how and why the technology is being used. "I think people are just freaked out, and rightfully so, about this technology," said Freddy Martinez, director of Lucy Parsons Labs, a Chicago nonprofit that specializes in citizens' digital rights. "It's one of those rare issues that's seen bipartisan support, in that nobody wants to be tracked everywhere they go, especially when you don't have a choice."

The issue caught fire in



In this Oct. 7, 2020, file photo, a video surveillance camera is installed on the ceiling above a subway platform in the Court Street station in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

Associated Press

statehouses after law enforcement applied facial recognition technology to images taken from street cameras during last year's racial justice demonstrations — and in some cases used those to make arrests. Complaints about false identifications prompted Amazon, Microsoft and IBM to pause sales of their software to police, though most departments hire lesser-known firms that specialize in police contracts. Wrongful arrests of Black men have gained attention in Detroit and New Jersey after the technology was blamed for mistaking their images for those of others.

The American Civil Liberties Union began raising ques-

tions about the technology years ago, citing studies that found higher error rates for facial recognition software used to identify people of color. Concerns also have grown because of increasing awareness of the Chinese government's extensive video surveillance system, especially as it's been employed in a region home to one of China's largely Muslim ethnic minority populations. In March, the ACLU sued Clearview AI, a company that provides facial recognition services to law enforcement and private companies, contending it illegally stockpiled images of 3 billion people scraped from internet sites without their knowledge or permission.

For many, news of that stockpile, first reported by The New York Times, raised concerns that the type of surveillance seen in China could happen in the U.S. and other countries. Cities that passed bans — including Boston; Minneapolis; San Francisco; Oakland, California; and Portland, Oregon — listed concerns about police using the technology secretly among their reasons.

Hoan Ton-That, CEO of Clearview AI, said his company collects only publicly available photos from the open internet that are accessible "from any computer anywhere in the world." He said its data-

base cannot be used for surveillance.

Ton-That said that, as a person of mixed race, it is important to him that the technology is not biased.

"Unlike other facial recognition technologies that have misidentified people of color, an independent study has indicated that Clearview AI has no racial bias," he said in a statement. "We know of no instance where Clearview AI's technology has resulted in a wrongful arrest."

But the pushback against the technology has continued.

Last year, New York imposed a two-year moratorium on use of the technology in schools after an upstate district adopted facial recognition as part of its security plans and was sued. A state ACLU executive called it "flawed and racially-biased" technology that didn't belong in schools.

That came on the heels of the nation's first ban on government use of the technology, in San Francisco in 2019, and a statewide three-year moratorium on police departments using facial recognition from videos shot with body cameras that California imposed later that year.

No such restrictions exist at the federal level. Variants of facial recognition technology were used, including by ordinary people, to help identify those who

took part in the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. Police also used it at some protests last year staged against coronavirus-related mask mandates, and some activists have used it to identify police officers engaged in misconduct.

This February, Virginia lawmakers passed one of the most restrictive bans of them all. It prohibits local law enforcement agencies and campus police departments — though not state police — from purchasing or using facial recognition technology unless expressly authorized by the state legislature.

Police groups are pushing for the prohibitions to be revisited.

"It's fear-mongering politics at its worst," said Jonathan Thompson, CEO and executive director of the National Sheriffs' Association. He said facial recognition technology is just one tool used by police agencies — and not to the extent politicians suggest.

"I've never heard of anybody sitting around a computer monitor searching for people all day, every day. It doesn't work that way," he said. "Agencies have rules. They have governance of how and who has access to these databases. They have to have a legitimate, rational reason for doing it."

Thompson's association produced a report detailing example after example of the technology being used for good to snag drug dealers, to solve murders and missing persons cases, and to identify and rescue human trafficking victims. Most often, a face is compared against a database of known subjects. The vast majority of images are criminal mugshots, he said, not driver's license photos or random pictures of individuals.

A new Massachusetts law tries to strike a balance between civilian and police concerns. It allows police to benefit from the technology while adding protections that could prevent false arrests. □

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/08

Giant sequoia still smoldering from 2020 California wildfire



This photo provided by the National Park Service shows what appears to be a smoldering tree in Sequoia National Park, Calif., on April 22, 2021.

Associated Press

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — A giant sequoia has been found smoldering and smoking in a part of Sequoia National Park that burned in one of California's huge wildfires last year, the National Park Service said Wednesday. "The fact areas are still smoldering and smoking from the 2020 Castle Fire demonstrates how dry the park is," said Leif Mathiesen, assistant fire management officer for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in central California. "With the low amount of snowfall and rain this year, there may be additional discoveries as spring transitions into summer." The smoldering tree was found recently by scientists and fire crews surveying the effects of the blaze, which was ignited by lightning last August and spread over more than 270 square miles (699 square kilometers) of the Sierra Nevada. It took five months to fully contain.

Most of California is deep in drought, with severe to extreme conditions in the mountain range that provides about a third of the state's water. On April 1, when the Sierra Nevada snowpack is normally at its peak, its water content was just 59% of average, according to the state

Department of Water Resources.

The dryness could set the stage for a repeat of last year, when wildfires, many of them ignited by thousands of dry lightning strikes, burned a record 6,562 square miles (16,996 square kilometers) in the nation's most populated state.

With drought conditions dire across the American West, AccuWeather predicted an above-average 2021 wildfire season in a forecast released Wednesday.

According to AccuWeather senior meteorologist Dave Samuhel, fires are projected to burn 14,844 square miles (38,445 square kilometers) of land across the Western U.S.

"Unfortunately, in a nutshell, it looks like it's going to be another busy season," he said in a statement. "We're seeing a lot of drought. Almost half of the country is experiencing drought, and the bulk of that is to the West."

A possible exception could be Southern California, where lack of rain has stunted spring growth that would eventually dry out and can become fuel for fires.

"Since it was a dry winter there, that means there wasn't a lot of new grass that grew," Samuhel said. "So that could reduce the wildfire threat a little bit, at

least in that area."

In Sequoia National Park, officials said the burning giant sequoia is well within fire lines and there are no threats to life or property. The tree is in the Board Camp Grove, and there is no direct access via any trail system. □

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To filmmaker Gibney, opioid crisis is ‘Crime of the Century’

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Not unexpectedly given the subject matter, HBO’s two-part documentary “The Crime of the Century” opens with a body bag.

It contained a man from San Diego — his remains carried away in the pre-dawn hours after overdosing on fentanyl — one of nearly a half million Americans to die from opioid abuse since 2001.

Filmmaker Alex Gibney quickly widens the lens, however, for an explanation of how the drugs that caused the crisis came to be, how companies aggressively promoted and distributed them and how the government failed to act swiftly and effectively to save lives.

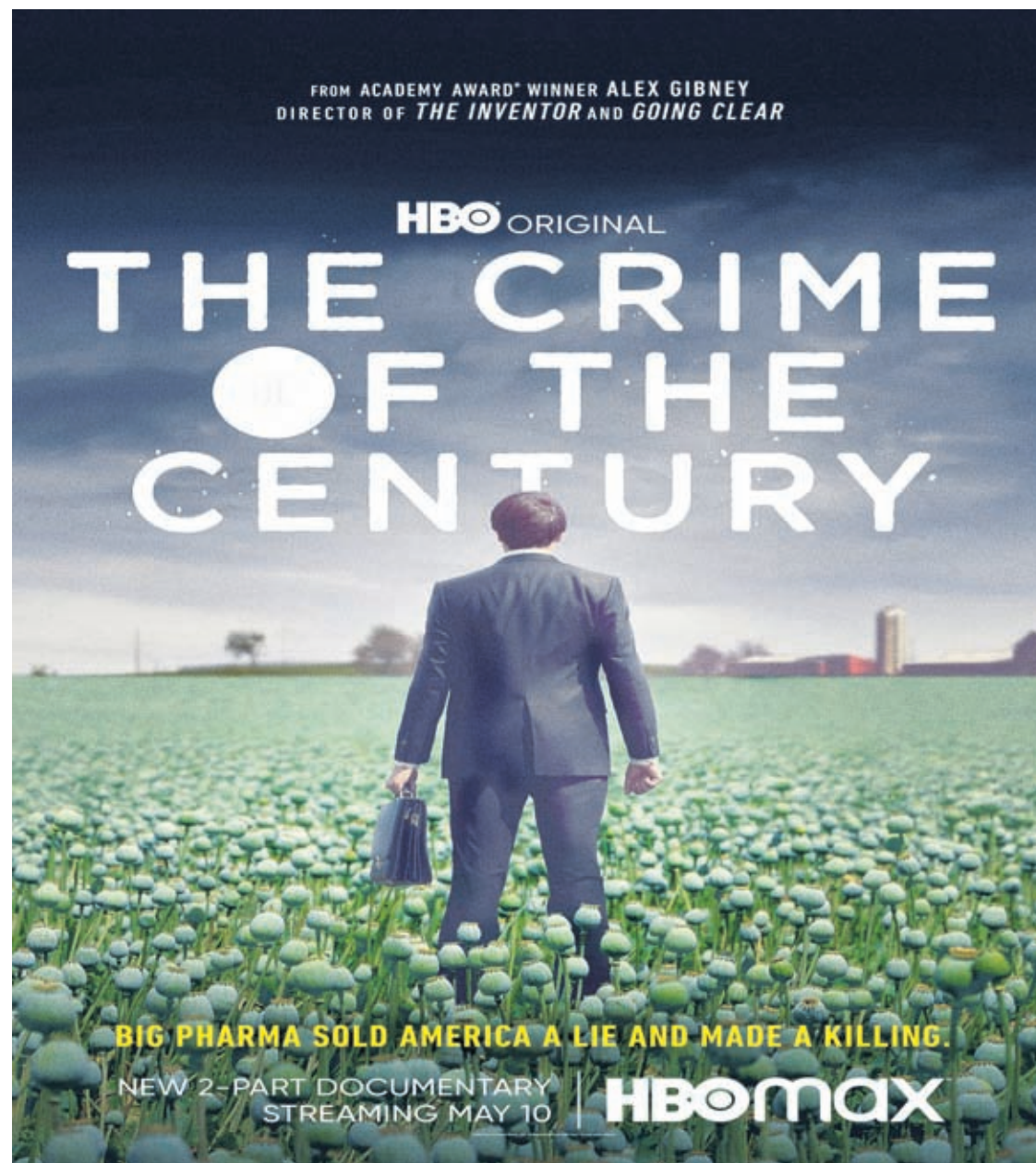
The story is exhaustive and often sickening, its scope recalling the examinations Gibney and his team have given in the past to Enron, to Scientology and, most recently, to the Trump administration’s response to COVID-19. “The Crime of the Century” will be shown Monday and Tuesday.

“I felt that the whole idea of the crisis was being treated as if it were a spontaneous event that just couldn’t have been helped,” Gibney said. “What was missing was the element of crime, in particular the sort of broad, over-arching conspiracy.”

If you put everything together, “it’s almost like a murder mystery,” he said. “In some way, it is a murder mystery.”

The role of the Sackler family and their company, Purdue Pharma, in developing the prescription painkiller OxyContin is familiar territory. Gibney’s film digs into the aftermath, including the push to get doctors to overprescribe the medication and the company’s use of former government regulators to cripple serious oversight.

A former Purdue Pharma salesman, Mark Ross, tells how he got involved to make some money and help people with chronic pain. But when he grew



This image released by HBO shows promotional art for “The Crime of the Century,” a two-part documentary premiering May 10 on HBO.

concerned about abuses, his bosses told him to stay in his lane.

Gibney reports on a little-known memo prosecutors in Virginia drew up in 2006 that detailed Purdue Pharma’s actions, its contents essentially hidden when the Justice Department reached a settlement. It was his “a-ha” moment, seeing the connections between OxyContin, heroin abuse and the development of fentanyl.

Asked for comment on “The Crime of the Century,” a Purdue Pharma spokeswoman pointed to the company’s recent proposed settlement in federal bankruptcy court, intended to clear thousands of lawsuits stemming from OxyContin.

“We remain focused on achieving a global settlement that would deliver more than \$10 billion in value, including 100 percent

of Purdue’s assets and millions of doses of opioid addiction treatment and overdose reversal medicines, to claimants and communities across the country affected by the opioid crisis,” the company said.

Gibney’s Jigsaw Productions worked in tandem with The Washington Post on the documentary, and he credits the newspaper’s journalists for helping draw connections and bringing stories of government to life.

Ross is a key character in Gibney’s film, as is Joe Rannazzisi, a former federal Drug Enforcement Administration agent who saw his efforts thwarted and is trying to educate the public on what is going on, and Alec Burlakoff, former sales executive at the rogue company Insys Therapeutics, manufacturer of fentanyl.

With the storytelling abil-

ity of a born salesman, Burlakoff tells a frightening tale of a corporate culture where doctors were bribed and intimidated to pump out the dangerous drug. Money was the concern, not consequences.

Celebratory videos from company events bring the culture to life.

“He was able to cast all moral qualms to the side and rapaciously and relentlessly sell a drug that he knew was terrible for people, in ways that were utterly reprehensible,” Gibney said. “But he takes us through the process step by step in a way that’s just jaw-dropping. You understand ultimately how the crime works.”

Gibney’s film doesn’t avoid the stories of a victim like Roy Bosley, showing in detail how opioids killed the Utah man’s wife. Filmmakers also confront the doctor who ran the pain clinic

where Bosley’s wife was treated.

That story illustrates Gibney’s focus on the people and companies responsible for creating addicts.

“If you understand the perps and what their motivations are, it helps you understand not only how crimes are committed but how to prevent them in the future,” he said.

There is some good in these drugs, in limited doses for people who have undergone serious operations or are in end-of-life care, he said.

The opioid crisis shows “the danger of what happens when you mix and kind of turbo-charged 21st Century capitalism with health care,” he said. “You realize the incentives are all wrong. You realize the incentives are to make money, rather than care for patients.”

If it really is the crime of the century, will anyone pay?

“That’s a good question,” Gibney said. Companies that have been charged with wrongdoing will point, as Purdue Pharma has, to fines and settlements, he said.

Gibney believes that most of the people who have lost loved ones due to the opioid crisis mostly want an apology or, more significantly, the truth.

Most of the companies and executives involved, however, hide behind settlements that keep what happened essentially hidden, he said.

“When you evade and avoid the truth, you avoid a public reckoning,” Gibney said. “That’s why I make films like this, to say ‘look at what happened. Apply it the next time you see a situation where something like this is coming. Don’t be fooled.’” □

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7	6	1	8	5	4	2	3	9
3	8	2	9	7	6	5	1	4
2	1	8	6	4	3	9	7	5
4	3	7	2	9	5	6	8	1
9	5	6	7	1	8	3	4	2
1	4	3	5	6	9	8	2	7
8	7	9	1	3	2	4	5	6
6	2	5	4	8	7	1	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/08

Zverev beats Nadal in straight sets at Madrid Open

By **TALES AZZONI**

AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Rafael Nadal's bid to reach a 75th semifinal at a Masters event ended Friday with a 6-4, 6-4 loss to Alexander Zverev.

The sixth-ranked German beat Nadal for the first time on clay and for the third time in a row overall. Zverev broke Nadal's serve twice in the first set and once in the second. His previous two wins over Nadal were on indoor hard courts.

Zverev will next face Dominic Thiem in a rematch of the 2018 final. Thiem, who lost to Zverev in straight sets in the Spanish capital three years ago, defeated John Isner 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Nadal, who is preparing to play for a 14th title at the French Open, had been improving after a slow start to his clay season. He lost to Andrey Rublev in the Monte Carlo quarterfinals before beating Tsitsipas in the Barcelona Open final. Nadal played well in his first two matches in Madrid, comfortably defeating youngsters Carlos Alcaraz and Alexei Popyrin in straight sets.

In the early match, Thiem capitalized on two of his



Germany's Alexander Zverev returns the ball to Spain's Rafael Nadal during their match at the Mutua Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, Friday, May 7, 2021.

Associated Press

four chances to break Isner's serve, and that was all he really needed.

Thiem broke the tall American on his first chance in the second set and then once more in the third to reach the semifinals in Madrid for the fourth straight time.

"He is one of the best serv-

ers in history, especially here in the altitude. His serve is bouncing so high and it's so difficult to return," Thiem said. "I really stayed focused, with a good fighting spirit. Against guys like him, a few points decide and that's when I saved the break points in the beginning of the second set."

Thiem saved four break points in the fifth game of the second set, then broke Isner's serve in the next game to take the match to a third set. The Austrian squandered another break chance in the first game of the deciding set but capitalized again at 4-4. He then served out the match.

Isner served more than 100 aces in his four matches in the Spanish capital, where the high altitude adds speed to the balls and makes the clay courts faster.

The American had 18 aces on Friday and 29 in his three-set win over sixth-seeded Andrey Rublev on Thursday, including two consecutive to close out the match. He said he was outplayed and only stayed in the match thanks to his serve.

The 39th-ranked American had lost in the round of 16 in his last two tournaments, with his other quarterfinal appearance this year coming in March in what was his first tournament since last year's French Open.

Thiem, last year's U.S. Open champion, was coming off a break after a slow start. The fourth-ranked Austrian hadn't played since March. Later Friday, eighth-seeded Matteo Berrettini will face 16th-seeded Cristian Garin, and Alexander Bublik will take on Casper Ruud in the other quarterfinal matches. The Madrid Open was not played last year because of the coronavirus pandemic. [q](#)

Floyd Mayweather returning for June 6 exhibition fight

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)

— A month before he returns to the ring at age 44 for an exhibition bout, Floyd Mayweather wound up in a brawl.

The boxing Hall of Famer will face Logan Paul in a pay-per-view event on June 6 at Hard Rock Stadium in Florida. On Thursday, he squared off — sort of — with Paul's brother, Jake, who prompted the scuffle when he took Mayweather's cap.

Apparently incensed that Mayweather called both Pauls "fake fighters" and offered to take on both on the same night, Jake Paul confronted the former champion. In what appeared to be a staged get-together, Paul grabbed Mayweather's white baseball cap and "security" jumped between

the two as Mayweather surged toward Paul.

"I don't have to talk about what I'm going to do. The world knows what I'm going to do," Mayweather said. "I'm willing to fight both in the same night."

Mayweather had a 50-0 record with 27 knockouts during a career in which he won world titles in five weight divisions over three decades. Among the opponents he beat were Canelo Alvarez, Manny Pacquiao and Oscar De La Hoya before he retired in 2015 — though he stopped mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor in 2017.

In the 26-year-old Paul, Mayweather will face a star created on the internet. Followed by more than 20 million on YouTube, Paul began boxing in 2019 with

a six-round bout against fellow YouTube star KSI. A former high school wrestler, Paul will have a 6-inch height advantage over Mayweather, but obviously gives away plenty in ring experience and mastery. "Logan Paul is huge on YouTube and he has a huge following. He's a big guy, strong guy," Mayweather said. It's just fun. It's entertaining. It's all about entertainment and, of course, when he's on social media, he's entertaining to people all the time."

It's uncertain if Mayweather was referring to the news conference altercation as entertaining, too.

"I just feel inspired," Logan Paul said. "I want to beat the (stuffing) out of him. I really do. This fight means so much to me. To my fans.



Boxers Floyd Mayweather, left, and Logan Paul stand during a news conference Thursday, May 6, 2021, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

To my family. To everyone watching who thought they couldn't do something in life. That's the energy I'm going in with. Everyone says this is impossible. Well it was impossible that I got this fight."

The undercard will feature

heavyweights Jean Pascal against Badou Jack, and super welterweight Jarrett Hurd vs. Luis Arias. Former NFL wide receiver Chad Johnson will make his boxing debut.

The pay-per-view telecast will be on Showtime. [□](#)

Russell Westbrook 1 triple-double from Big O's NBA record

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russell Westbrook's stat lines have been looking like typos in the box score lately — the 14-point, 21-rebound, 24-assist game this week, for example, or the 18-18-14 five nights earlier — and now he's on the verge of something historic. The Washington Wizards point guard's next triple-double, which could come as soon as Saturday in a game at the Indiana Pacers that has playoff implications, will be the 181st of Westbrook's career, tying Oscar Robertson's NBA record that has stood for nearly a half-century.

"That's one of those records that I read about when I was younger. They always made it sound like nobody was ever going to break that, nobody was ever going to pass that," Wizards center Robin Lopez said. "And Russ has it in his grasp. That's pretty special."

Westbrook's stellar play of late not only has guaranteed him his fourth season averaging a triple-double — the current numbers are 21.8 points, an NBA-best 11.4 assists and 11.4 rebounds (sixth in the league) — but, of more immediate import to the Wizards, also has been translating into victories.

Washington has won 14 of its past 18 contests, including an eight-game winning streak that was the team's longest run since 2001.



Then-Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook, right, is congratulated by Oscar Robertson on his single season triple-double record before an NBA basketball game between the Denver Nuggets and the Oklahoma City Thunder in Oklahoma City, Okla., in this Wednesday, April 12, 2017, file photo.

Associated Press

That's propelled the Wizards into 10th in the Eastern Conference standings at 31-36, good enough to be in position for a play-in berth, just a half-game behind Indiana for ninth and holders of a 3½-game lead over the 11th-place Chicago Bulls entering Friday.

And while All-Star shooting guard Bradley Beal, who is second in the NBA in scoring average, is playing a key role, certainly — "They complement each other well, and it's getting better," coach Scott Brooks said — Westbrook is getting credit for doing more to help the

team than all of the numbers next to his name.

"The energy, the intensity, the things the analytics don't understand. The fierce competitiveness. What he instills in our younger players, there's no analytics for that," Brooks said about someone he also coached years ago with the Oklahoma City Thunder.

The 32-year-old Westbrook, Brooks said after a 131-129 overtime victory against the Toronto Raptors on Thursday night, teaches the team's younger members "how to get better as

a player, how to get better as a teammate, how does the league work."

Beal credited the turnaround from a 17-32 record on April 5 to "our approach to the game, night in and night out" and explained: "We follow Russ on that."

Brooks praised Westbrook for playing nightly "like it's Game 7" and called him the second-best point guard in NBA history, behind only Magic Johnson.

"He's doing MVP-type things every game. And he's an MVP winner every night, on the floor and off the floor," Brooks said. "You

can critique him all you want. ... He's as high a level player as this league has ever seen."

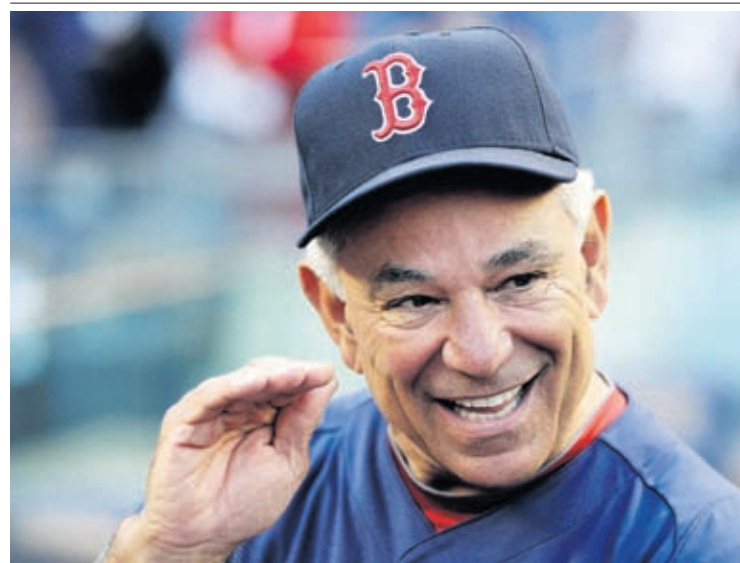
Westbrook's 13 points, 17 rebounds and 17 assists Thursday gave him his 34th triple-double of the season. The performance helped Washington beat Toronto for the first time since 2018.

"He just does so many things in so many different ways, right? I mean, obviously the first thing you always think about is the freight train coming downhill 100 mph in transition. ... Then he'll post you. He'll kill you on the offensive glass. He'll run pick-and-roll. Now he's making 3-balls," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "I've always been super impressed and loved his competitive spirit and just watching him play."

Westbrook, who defines his job as "making others around me better," objects to the notion that he is merely accumulating statistics.

"I honestly believe there is no player like myself," said Westbrook, who arrived in Washington via an off-season trade that sent John Wall to the Houston Rockets. "And if people want to take it for granted, sorry for them. But I'm pretty sure if everybody could do it, they would do it."

Asked whether he contemplates how surpassing Robertson could affect his legacy, Westbrook responded with a hint of a smile. □



In this Oct. 1, 2012 file photo, then Boston Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine gestures as he talks to reporters on the field before their baseball game against the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium, in New York.

Associated Press

Baseball's Bobby Valentine running for mayor of hometown

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP) — Former Major League Baseball player and manager Bobby Valentine is taking a swing at politics, announcing Friday that he's running for mayor of his Connecticut hometown. Valentine, 70, who currently serves as the athletic director at Sacred Heart University, posted a video on social media and said he'll run as an independent candidate in Stamford.

"The greatest commodity I have is my time and I want

to give my time and my energy and my wherewithal back to the city that has given me so much over my lifetime," he said.

Valentine, a Stamford native, was a three-sport high school star in the city. He was drafted in 1968 by the Los Angeles Dodgers and played in the Major Leagues from 1969 to 1979, where he was a lifetime .260 hitter.

He became manager of the Texas Rangers in 1985 and also skippered the

New York Mets and Boston Red Sox in addition to spending time in Japan, winning a Japan Series title in 2005 with the Chiba Lotte Marines.

Valentine, who owns a sports bar in Stamford, served as the city's health and public safety director in 2011, before being hired by the Red Sox.

He joins a race that includes two Democrats: incumbent David Martin and state Rep. Caroline Simmons. □